GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2691
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016
Spiritual Development of the Youth
Rathod Shri Dipsinh Shankarsinh

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has planned any policy for the spiritual development of the youth;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) to (c) No Madam. The Government has not planned any specific policy for the spiritual development of the youth. However, under the National Youth Policy-2014 (NYP-2014), 'promotion of social values' is one of the key priority areas. NYP-2014 envisages that the youth should uphold social values and moral standards of the highest order. This would include inter-alia, inculcating in the youth a sense of harmony and togetherness, values like compassion, kindness and empathy, spirit of integrity and truthfulness, concern for environment and developing compassion for other living creatures, etc. NYP-2014 recommends various policy interventions in this regard like (i) moving towards formalising value education,

(ii) strengthening programmes like NYKS, NSS and NCC that instil social values among the youth through their programmes and (iii) supporting non-government organisations working towards spreading values and harmony.

Ministry of AYUSH is taking a number of steps for development of Yoga, which promotes development of body and mind, including spiritual development. These include celebration of International Day of Yoga on 21st June every year, imparting Yoga education through Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, conducting research in the field of Yoga through the Central Council of Research in Yoga and Naturopathy and approval, in principle, for constitution of a Board for promotion and regulation of Yoga. National Service Scheme (NSS) and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports are playing an important role in developing personality and character of the youth and developing social values among them. NSS has about 3.66 million student volunteers in schools, colleges and universities and NYKS has about 8.65 million youth enrolled through its affiliated youth clubs. These youth are being involved in various community service and nation-building activities. Yoga has been made a mandatory component in all residential training/ other programmes conducted by NYKS and NSS.
****